

Stanley Merry

Duxbury lost one of its centenarians recently. Stanley Merry passed away peacefully at his home on August 31. A lifetime Duxbury resident of over 100 years, "Stan" was a land owner, conservationist, cranberry grower and a founding member of the cooperative that eventually became Ocean Spray. Born in 1915 and a direct descendent of Myles Standish, Stanley was one of nine children of former Duxbury fire chief H.E. Merry.

Stan served World War II as a coxswain in the US Coast Guard. He trained as a draftsman before being recruited into submersibles and becoming a notable marine designer internationally, with many patents to his credit. He was one of Duxbury's original "Bay Men," who mapped the area's currents, hidden channels, shellfish locations and fishing spots. His favorite occupation, however, was that of a cranberry farmer in Duxbury, before cranberries had a presence outside of New England.

Stan, and his wife of 66 years, Alice Neale, were responsible for many watershed preservation projects in and around Duxbury. They worked shoulder to shoulder, until her passing in 2005.

Stan and Alice raised two sons in Duxbury, both of whom survive him with the support of their loving wives and families. W. "Neal" Merry, a former Duxbury town official, resides in Duxbury with Elizabeth Boland Merry; Alan, a real estate/construction consultant, resides in California with Leslie Butler Merry. Among Stan's grandchildren, Gwenn resides in Arkansas, Natalie in Duxbury, Wendy in New York, and Adam in Virginia. Great grandchildren are Elaina, Daniel, Nora and Vivian.

The estates of both Stanley Merry and Alice Neale Merry continue to support The Pilgrim Church, the Duxbury Free Library, South Shore Conservancy and other local charities.